

November 18, 1954

OSD Declassification/Release Instructions on  
File

Mr. John V. Grombach  
113 West 57th Street  
New York 19, New York

Dear Frenchy:

Thank you very much for the file of correspondence on the subject of the dropping of fencing at the Military Academy. I'm about as shocked at this decision as anyone in the sports world. The decision on the part of the Committee at West Point may have been arrived at after long deliberation, as General Irving says, but the deliberation in my opinion was far from intelligent. I think the stupidest remark among many is that the sport of fencing has no carry-over value after school days. I don't know of any sport that has a longer carry-over value, and with such telling effect, as in the case of you and Gus Heiss, Tommy Sands and many others. When an old crock like you can win the Masters Tournament against the best fencers in the country, the sport certainly has carry-over value for an incredible length of time. Were you a member of the Class of 1865—or was it 1924, time passes so quickly.

In all seriousness, I do hope that you can effect something and when you and Mike de Capriles give me the green light, I will do the best that I can down here.

So much for that—I want to thank you also for your separate enclosure on the subject of record of conversation between Mendes-France and General deGaulle. I don't, at this point, feel that it would be fair for me to give you an estimate of the situation, because there are an awful lot of things I want to look into in connection with collateral information before I react. I will keep you informed as to what is done with this information officially.

Your invitation to a lunch or dinner the next time I come to New York is deeply appreciated. Don't think for a moment that I won't take you up on that one.

Warmest regards to your teammates—particularly Dernel Every and Henry Santos.

Sincerely,

Horace S. Craig